

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 551

By Rochelle

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Bobby Lee Thompson for laudable service as Director of Region 8 of the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW).

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves in their professions and as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Bobby Lee Thompson, who, for almost eleven years, has served as Director of Region 8 of the United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW); he was elected to that office by acclamation at a special convention on April 19, 1991 in Raleigh, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson was born on October 2, 1936 and joined UAW Local 435 in 1954 as a newly hired assembler at the General Motors assembly plant in Wilmington, Delaware; he quickly advanced to the classification of inspector and became active in the union, serving as chairperson of the election committee, trustee and committee person at large of Local 435; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Lee Thompson was elected recording secretary of Local 435 in 1972 and served effectively in that office until 1975, when he was elected president of the local union; he served admirably as president until mid-1978, as well as chairperson of then-Subcouncil 7A, representing UAW-GM assembly facilities in the United States from 1975-76 and as a member of the resolutions committee for the UAW's 1976 Special Collective Bargaining Convention; and

WHEREAS, on June 25, 1978, Mr. Thompson was appointed as a UAW International Representative, completing assignments servicing General Motors and independent parts and supplier local unions in Delaware and Maryland; his skill as an advocate for workers in the field of independent arbitration earned him recognition; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Lee Thompson was named Delaware area director for Region 8 in November of 1983, and in that role he worked closely with the Delaware UAW Community Action Program (CAP), Retired Workers, and Civil Rights Councils, along with serving as skilled trades coordinator for Region 8; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson served astutely as assistant director for Region 8 from July 29, 1984 until his election as director; in the post of director of Region 8, Mr. Thompson has overseen UAW activities in the states of Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, a portion of south-central Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Lee Thompson epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Thompson is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Francene; they are the proud parents of sons Robert Lee and Roger Lee and daughter Jeanne Lee; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Mr. Thompson for his dedication to the UAW workers in the state of Tennessee and throughout Region 8; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Bobby Lee Thompson for his exemplary career as an official in the UAW, his service to members of the UAW in the state of Tennessee and throughout Region 8, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success and much happiness and satisfaction in his retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.